

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of finishing brightwork on a boat [a wood surface for exterior exposure of the wood], said method comprising the steps of:
  - (a) providing a finishing film material in the form of a sheet, said finishing material comprising:
    - (i) a flexible polymeric sheet material having a first major surface and a second major surface;
    - (ii) a pressure sensitive adhesive layer covering at least a portion of the first major surface of the sheet material;
  - (b) providing a wood substrate having a surface, wherein the wood substrate comprises the brightwork; and
  - (c) adhering the adhesive layer of the finishing film material to the surface of the wood by placing the adhesive layer of the finishing film in contact with the surface of the wood substrate [and optionally applying pressure and/or heat to at least a portion of the finishing film].
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the wood substrate is selected from the group consisting of teak and mahogany.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the polymeric sheet material comprises an aliphatic polyurethane.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the polymeric sheet material has a percent elongation of about 60% or greater.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the polymeric sheet material has a thickness ranging from about 3 to 18 mils.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the polymeric sheet material has a thickness ranging from about 5 to 12 mils.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the polymeric sheet material comprises an ultraviolet absorber.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer is an acrylic adhesive.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer has a thickness ranging from about 0.5 to 10 mils.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer has a thickness ranging from about 1 to 5 mils.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the brightwork comprises a result of [further including the step of:] coating the surface of the wood substrate with a liquid coating composition comprising a polymer or polymer precursor dispersed or dissolved in a liquid.
12. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the liquid coating composition comprises an aliphatic polyurethane polymer dispersed or dissolved in a solvent.
13. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, further including the step of:  
  
wetting the surface of the wood substrate with a wetting solution prior to adhering the adhesive.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the adhesive layer is repositionable.
15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the adhesive layer has a microstructured surface.
16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the adhesive layer includes a water-soluble detackifying overcoat.
17. (Currently Amended) A method of finishing a wood [teak] surface for exterior exposure of the wood [teak], said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a finishing film material in the form of a sheet, said finishing material comprising:

- (i) a flexible aliphatic polyurethane sheet material having a first major surface and a second major surface;
- (ii) an acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive layer covering at least a portion of the first major surface of the sheet material;

(b) providing a wood [teak] substrate having a surface;

(c) coating the surface of the wood [teak] substrate with a liquid varnish [coating composition comprising a polymer or polymer precursor dispersed or dissolved in a liquid] to form a coated surface;

(d) wetting the coated surface of the wood [teak] substrate with a wetting solution;  
and

(e) adhering the adhesive layer of the finishing film material to the coated surface of the wood [teak] substrate by placing the adhesive layer of the finishing film in contact with the coated surface of the wood [teak] substrate [and optionally applying pressure and/or heat to at least a portion of the finishing film].

18. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising applying pressure and/or heat to at least a portion of the finishing film after placing the adhesive layer of the finishing film in contact with the coated surface of the wood substrate.

19. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the polymeric sheet material has a percent elongation of about 60% or greater.

20. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the polymeric sheet material has a thickness ranging from about 3 to 18 mils.

21. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the polymeric sheet material has a thickness ranging from about 5 to 12 mils.

22. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the polymeric sheet material comprises an ultraviolet absorber.
23. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the adhesive layer has a thickness ranging from about 0.5 to 10 mils.
24. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the adhesive layer has a thickness ranging from about 1 to 5 mils.
25. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the liquid varnish comprises a polyurethane polymer dispersed or dissolved in a solvent.
26. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the adhesive layer is repositionable.
27. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the adhesive layer has a microstructured surface.
28. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the adhesive layer includes a water-soluble detackifying overcoat.
29. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of coating the surface of the wood substrate comprises multiple applications of the liquid varnish.
30. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the wood substrate is provided on a boat.
31. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the coated surface is dried prior to the step of wetting the coated surface.
32. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the brightwork is dried prior to the step of adhering.
33. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising applying pressure and/or heat to at least a portion of the finishing film after placing the adhesive layer of the finishing film in contact with the surface of the wood substrate.

34. (New) A method of finishing a wood surface for exterior exposure of the wood, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a finishing film material in the form of a sheet, said finishing material comprising:

(i) a flexible aliphatic polyurethane sheet material having a first major surface and a second major surface;

(ii) an acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive layer covering at least a portion of the first major surface of the sheet material;

(b) providing a wood substrate having a surface;

(c) coating the surface of the wood substrate with an oil or sealer that leaves the natural grain of the wood exposed to form a coated surface;

(d) wetting the coated surface of the wood substrate with a wetting solution; and

(e) adhering the adhesive layer of the finishing film material to the coated surface of the wood substrate by placing the adhesive layer of the finishing film in contact with the coated surface of the wood substrate.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the coated surface is dried prior to the step of wetting the coated surface.

36. (New) A method of finishing a wood surface for exterior exposure of the wood, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a finishing film material in the form of a sheet, said finishing material comprising:

(i) a flexible aliphatic polyurethane sheet material having a first major surface and a second major surface;

- (ii) an acrylic pressure sensitive adhesive layer covering at least a portion of the first major surface of the sheet material;
- (b) providing a wood substrate having a surface;
- (c) coating the surface of the wood substrate with a liquid varnish to form a coated surface; and
- (d) adhering the adhesive layer of the finishing film material to the coated surface of the wood substrate by placing the adhesive layer of the finishing film in contact with the coated surface of the wood substrate.

37. (New) The method claim 36, wherein the liquid varnish is dried prior to the step of adhering.

### **Support for Amendment**

Claim 1 is amended to reflect that the method is directed at finishing brightwork on a boat. As described by the specification at page 1, lines 10-12, many boats are appointed with brightwork, and brightwork refers to the interior or exterior wood that has been finished with a non-opaque varnish, oil or sealer that leaves the natural grain of the wood exposed. According to the specification at page 2, lines 12-13, the method of the invention "is particularly suitable for the finishing of brightwork on boats." Accordingly, amending claim 1 to refer to a method of finishing brightwork on a boat is supported by the specification.

Claim 1 is additionally amended by removing the optional step of "applying pressure and/or heat to at least a portion of the finishing film." This step has been introduced as new dependent claim 33. This step is additionally supported by the specification at page 11, line 13 through page 12, line 2.

Claim 11 is amended to reflect that the brightwork comprises a result of coating the surface of the wood substrate with a liquid coating composition comprising a polymer or polymer precursor dispersed or dissolved in a liquid. This amendment is supported by the specification at page 2, line 29 through page 3, line 2, page 4, lines 3-10, and page 11, lines 1-14.

Claim 17 is amended to remove the reference to "teak." According to the specification at page 1, line 34 through page 2, line 13, it is clear that the invention is not limited to finishing a teak surface. Claim 17 is additionally amended to remove the optional step of "applying pressure and/or heat to at least a portion of the finishing film." This optional step has been introduced as dependent claim 18 and is supported by the specification at, for example, page 11, line 13 through page 12, line 2.

New dependent claims 19-28 are similar to original claims 4-7, 9, 10, 12, and 14-16.

New dependent claim 30 is introduced characterizing the wood surface of claim 17 as a wood surface provided on a boat. This claim is supported by the specification at, for example, page 2, lines 12-13.

New independent claim 34 is similar to claim 17 except that the step of coating the surface of the wood substrate includes coating with an oil or sealer that leaves the natural grain of the wood exposed. The specification clearly provides that brightwork refers to interior or exterior wood that has been finished with a non-opaque varnish, oil or sealer that leaves the natural grain of the wood exposed. See the specification at page 1, lines 10-12.

New independent claim 36 is similar to claim 17 except that the step of "wetting the coated surface of the wood substrate with a wetting solution" has been removed. The specification clearly supports adhering the finishing film material to a wood substrate without wetting the wood substrate with a wetting solution. See the specification at, for example, page 11, lines 13-29, where one variation of the method of the invention is described utilizing a wetting solution prior to application of the finishing film.

New dependent claims 31, 32, 35, and 37 characterize the coated surface as dried prior to the steps of wetting or adhering. The specification describes at various locations such as page 4, lines 4-7, page 11, lines 1-5, and page 12, lines 8-13, the application of multiple coats of a liquid varnish material. One having ordinary skill in the art understands that a liquid varnish material can be dried between applications. Furthermore, the step of "wetting the coated surface of the wood substrate with a wetting solution" is described by the specification at page 11, lines 13-29, and refers to the application of a wetting solution to a dry surface to assist the application process by, for example, "allowing the finishing film to be repositioned prior to adhesive bonding and/or in order to improve the contact between the pressure sensitive adhesive and the wood substrate."

In view of the above comments, no new matter is introduced by this amendment, and entry thereof is requested. Upon entry, claims 1-37 are active in this application.